IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of Erick M. Griffin August 15, 2005

Serial Nbr: 10/052,579

Filed: January 18, 2002

For: Using Introspection for Access of Class Resource Bundle Information for Messages

Art Unit: 2173

Examiner: Dennis G. Bonshock

APPELLANT'S BRIEF ON APPEAL

Mail Stop Appeal Brief - Patents
Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is an Appeal seeking reversal of the decision of the Primary Examiner, finally rejecting all current claims of the subject patent application.

1) REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

The real party in interest is the Assignee, International Business Machines Corporation ("IBM").

2) RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

Appellant, the Appellant's legal representative, and the assignee, have no personal knowledge of any other appeals or interferences which will directly affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the Board's decision in the pending appeal.

3) STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 1 - 13 and 16 - 24 stand rejected. Claims 1 - 13 and 16 - 24 are under appeal.

4) STATUS OF AMENDMENTS

An amendment was filed after the Final Rejection mailed on March 18, 2005. This amendment has been entered.

5) SUMMARY OF CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER

1. Appellant's independent Claim 1 is directed toward using pairs of data (i.e., "name pairs", "string pairs", and "key pairs"; Claim 1, lines 3 - 9) to access information. In particular, "the string value [in one of the string pairs] associated with a selected name value [in one of the name pairs]" is accessed "by using a particular one of the key pairs" (Claim 1, lines 11 - 12). For example, the "name pairs" (each name pair comprising "a name key and an associated name value"; Claim 1, lines 3 - 4) might represent section headings from a table of contents (each

name pair having a name key and, associated therewith, a "name value" that stores the text of one of the section headings), while the "strings pairs" (each string pair comprising "a string key and as associated string value"; Claim 1, lines 5 - 6) might represent explanatory information pertaining to the section headings. See p. 11, line 16 - p. 12, line 3 of Appellant's specification, where this example is discussed. A logical one-to-one relationship exists between a particular one of the "name values" (in the example, a particular section heading) and a particular one of the "string values" (in the example, a particular part of the explanatory information). See p. 11, line 18 - p. 12, line 2.

2. The "key pairs" of Appellant's Claim 1 each comprise "a first key and a second key" (Claim 1, lines 7 - 8), "each of the first keys pointing to one of the name keys and each of the second keys pointing to one of the string keys" (Claim 1, lines 8 - 9). This is illustrated in **Fig. 2**, where a key pair (***K1**, ***K2**) has its first key ***K1** pointing to name key **K1** and its second key ***K2** pointing to string key **K2**. So, for example, if one of the *name values* is "Section 1.0, Introduction", and its corresponding explanatory information in one of the *string values* is "This is the introduction ...", then the logical relationship between this name value and its corresponding string value is embodied in a particular one of the "key pairs". That is, a "key pair" exists from which (1) the "first key" of this key pair points to the "name key" from the "name pair" in which the "name value" is "Section 1.0, Introduction" and (2) the "second key" of this key pair points to the "string key" from the "string pair" in which the "string value" is "This is the introduction ...". Claim 1 further specifies, in this regard, "such that the name value [e.g., "Section 1.0, Introduction"] associated with the pointed-to name key [which is pointed to by the

first key from a particular one of the key pairs] is thus associated with the string value [e.g., "This is the introduction ..."] associated with the pointed-to string key [which is pointed to by the *second key* from the same particular one of the key pairs]" (Claim 1, lines 7 - 10, emphasis added). See also p. 12, lines 3 - 5, explaining that "the relationship between the topic [i.e., section heading] and its associated explanatory text block can be defined by a relationship between the two keys [i.e., a *relationship* between the "name key" and the "string key", where this relationship is embodied in a "key pair" that comprises two keys, one pointing to the name key and the other pointing to the string key]".

3. To find the explanatory text associated with a particular section heading, in this example usage, the key pair holding the relationship between the section heading and its explanatory text is accessed. This is specified in Claim 1 as "accessing the string value associated with a selected name value [e.g., accessing explanatory text "This is the introduction ...", which is *associated with* the name value, or section heading, "Section 1.0, Introduction"] by using a particular one of the key pairs, wherein the first key in the particular one of the key pairs points to the name key with which the selected name value is associated and the second key in the particular one of the key pairs points to the string key with which the string value to be accessed is associated" (Claim 1, lines 11 - 14).

4. Independent Claims 10, 12, and 16 also refer to pairs of data, but in contrast to Claim 1, use the term "topic pairs" instead of "name pairs", and the term "text pairs" instead of "string pairs" (Claim 10, lines 3 - 5). Claims 10, 12, and 16 retain the terminology "key pairs", as in

Claim 1, and specify that the "first key" and "second key" in these key pairs point to "one of the topic keys [from a topic pair]" and "one of the text keys [from a text pair]", respectively (Claim 10, lines 6 - 8). Claims 10, 12, and 16 specify the relationship between the keys in the limitations "... such that the topic text string associated with the pointed-to topic key is thus associated with the text string associated with the pointed-to-text key" (Claim 10, lines 8 - 9). Claim 10 includes a limitation "responsive to selection of a particular topic text string ..., introspecting through the plurality of key pairs to locate the text string associated with the selected topic text string" (Claim 10, lines 14 - 16). Regarding this latter limitation, Claim 16 is similar (see Claim 16, lines 13 - 14), while Claim 12 uses the terminology "responsive to selection ..., locating the text string ... using the retrieved set of key pairs" (Claim 12, lines 18 - 20) and adds a limitation "... retrieving the set of key pairs through introspection" (Claim 12, lines 12 - 13).

5. Independent Claim 10 further specifies that the topic pairs are contained in "a first array" (Claim 10, line 3) and the text pairs are contained in "a second array" (Claim 10, lines 4 - 5), and that these two arrays are [both] in "a [single] data structure" (Claim 10, lines 3 - 5). This data structure is illustrated in **Fig. 2**, reference number **250**, which contains a first array denoted (at the right-hand side) by "KEY_1" and a second array denoted by "KEY_2"; Appendix E also shows a single data structure "Object[][]" (p. 34, line 6) which contains an array of topic pairs (p. 34, lines 19 - 40) and an array of text pairs (p. 34, line 44 - p. 35, line 26). Independent Claim 10 also contains limitations pertaining to displaying text strings, from the two arrays, on a graphical user interface ("GUI").

6. Independent Claim 12 specifies "encapsulating a [single] data structure" comprising "a set of topic pairs" (Claim 12, lines 3 - 4) and "a set of text pairs" (Claim 12, line 5). Independent Claim 16 specifies "providing a [single] data structure" comprising "a set of topic pairs" (Claim 16, lines 2 - 3) and "a set of text pairs" (Claim 16, line 3). These independent claims also specify limitations pertaining to displaying information on a GUI.

7. Independent Claims 12 and 16 include means plus function terminology. Structure, material, or acts supporting this terminology are described in Appellant's specification, as will now be described. The "... means for encapsulating ..."of Claim 12, or "means for providing a data structure" of Claim 16, is described at p. 14, lines 4 - 6; Appendix E on p. 34, line 6 - p. 35, line 26; and **Fig. 2** at reference number **250**. The "... means for providing a set of key pairs ..." is described on p. 13, line 20 - p. 14, line 2; p. 14, lines 8 - 11; Appendix E on p. 33, line 29 - p. 34, line 1; and **Fig. 2** at reference numbers **210**, **211**, and **212**. The "... means for retrieving ..." (Claim 12) is described at p. 16, lines 11 - 16. The "... means for displaying a user interface..." is described at p. 13, lines 3 - 5 and 9 - 10; p. 16, lines 3 - 5; and **Fig. 1** at reference numbers **100**, **110**, **120**. The "... means for displaying within ..." is described at p. 3, lines 3 - 5 and **Fig. 1** at reference number **106**. The "... means, responsive to selection ..." (Claim 12) and "responsive to selection ..., means for introspecting" (Claim 16) is described at p. 17, lines 8 - 15; p. 17, line 18 - p. 18, line 3; p. 18, line 13 - p. 19, line 8; and Appendix C. The "... means for displaying the located text string ..." is described at p. 13, lines 9 - 11 and **Fig. 1** at reference number **125**.

6) GROUNDS OF REJECTION TO BE REVIEWED ON APPEAL

8. The first ground of rejection presented for review is a rejection of Claims 1 - 8, 10, 12, 16 - 21, and 23 - 24 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), citing U. S. Patent 5,179,654 to Richards et al. (hereinafter, "Richards").

9. The second ground of rejection presented for review is a rejection of Claims 9, 11, 13, and 22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), citing Richards and further in view of "Java 2 Platform SE v1.3.3: Class ListResourceBundle" (hereinafter, "JavaLRB").

7) ARGUMENT

7.1) First Ground of Rejection

10. Paragraph 7 of the Office Action dated March 18, 2005 (hereinafter, "the Office Action") states that Claims 1 - 8, 10, 12, 16 - 21, and 23 - 24 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), citing U. S. Patent 5,179,654 to Richards. Of these claims, the independent claims are 1, 10, 12, and 16.

11. Appellant respectfully submits that a *prima facie* case of anticipation under 35 U.S.C. §102 has not been made out as to his Claims 1 - 8, 10, 12, 16 - 21, and 23 - 24. Section 706.02 of the MPEP, "Rejection on Prior Art", states in Section IV, "Distinction Between 35 U.S.C. 102 and 103", the requirements for establishing a *prima facie* case of anticipation under this statute, noting that "... for anticipation under 35 U.S.C. 102, the reference must teach every aspect of the claimed invention either explicitly or impliedly" (emphasis added). This requirement is also stated in MPEP §2131, "Anticipation -- Application of 35 U.S.C. 102(a), (b), and (e)", which states (in its final paragraph) "A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in

the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference", quoting *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987), emphasis added. This final paragraph of MPEP §2131 also states "The elements must be arranged as required by the claim ...", quoting *In re Bond*, 910 F.2d 831, 15 USPQ2d 1566 (Fed. Cir. 1990), emphasis added.

12. The burden for rebutting a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102 does not pass to Appellant until a *prima facie* case of anticipation has been made out. See *In re Bass*, 177 USPQ 178, 186 (C.C.P.A. 1973), which held:

> From the evidence available to it, the initial burden of making out a prima facie case of prior invention is on the Patent Office. . . . When the Patent Office has made out a prima facie case of priority the burden would then shift to the applicant to rebut it.

Accordingly, Appellant respectfully submits that the burden has not passed. For the sake of expediency, Appellant will, however, provide a rebuttal herein of the analysis provided in the Office Action.

7.1.1) Rejection of Independent Claims 1, 10, 12, and 16

13. Appellant respectfully submits that the Office Action fails to identify where Richards teaches "each and every element" of his independent Claim 1, and fails to demonstrate that Richards teaches "elements ... arranged as required by [Appellant's] claim", and thus the Office Action analysis fails to make out a *prima facie* case of anticipation, in violation of the above-quoted MPEP §706.02 and §2131, as will now be demonstrated.

14. The Office Action cites col. 1, line 60 - col. 4, lines 48 of Richards, as well as col. 3, lines 17 - 28; col. 9, lines 1 - 10 and 11 - 24; col. 10, lines 36 - 52; **Fig. 9**; and **Fig. 10** of Richards as teaching the limitations of Appellant's Claim 1. With regard to these citations from Richards, the Office Action states that Richards teaches "a system of keys" (p. 3, line 10 of the Office Action) and "a group of keys are used" (p. 3, line 19 and para. 26, line 3 of the Office Action). However, Appellant's Claim 1 does not simply specify "a system of keys" or "a group of keys". Appellant's Claim 1 specifies keys with explicit limitations: some of the keys are specified as having particular relationships to other keys (for example, the "first key" and "second key" are provided as a "key pair"; the "first keys" point to "name keys"; and the "second keys" point to "string keys"), and others of the keys are specified as having relationships with certain values (e.g., the "name key" has an "associated name value", and these are provided as a "name pair"; the "string key" has an "associated string value", and these are provided as a "string pair"). Furthermore, Appellant's Claim 1 specifies relationships between the values. Claim 1 specifies, for example, a "string value [is] associated with a selected name value" (Claim 1, line 11, emphasis added), and the string value is accessed "by using a particular one of the key pairs", where that particular key pair is the key pair where "the first key ... points to the name key with which the selected name value is associated" (Claim 1, lines 12 - 13) and where "the second key ... points to the string key with which the string value to be accessed is associated" (Claim 1, lines 13 - 14).

15. Additional limitations of Claim 1 specify "... a plurality of name pairs ..." (lines 3 - 4); "... a plurality of string pairs ..." (lines 5 - 6); and "... a plurality of key pairs, each of the key pairs

comprising a first key and a second key, each of the first keys [from the *key* pairs] pointing to one of the name keys [in the *name* pairs] and each of the second keys [from the *key* pairs] pointing to one of the string keys [in the *string* pairs] ..." (lines 7 - 10, emphasis added).

16. The Office Action further refers to "branching from Help Text words" and use of a "selectable word" to obtain a "Destination Key" (Office Action, p. 3, line 21 - p. 4, line 3). However, the Office Action does not identify which elements of Richards are relied upon for the detailed limitations of Appellant's Claim 1, and instead, specifies how Richards uses his system/group of keys (Office Action, p. 3, lines 9 - 12 and p. 3, line 20 - p. 4, line 3). Appellant respectfully submits that stating that Richards teaches a system/group of keys, and discussion of branching from words to destination keys, does not meet the "each and every element" or "must be arranged" requirements for anticipation which have been noted above in paragraph 11. The Office Action fails to identify where Richards teaches any "key pairs", as such are claimed in Appellant's Claim 1. That is, the Office Action cites no teaching in Richards of "key pairs, each of the key pairs comprising a first key and a second key" (Claim 1, lines 7 - 8). In fact, an electronic search of Richards finds no usage of the word "pair". Furthermore, the Office Action cites no teaching in Richards of the claimed details of Appellant's key pairs, such as "... each of the first keys pointing to one of the name keys and each of the second keys pointing to one of the string keys, such that ..." (Claim 1, lines 7 - 10), which will now be discussed.

17. Richards teaches a "key table" which is indexed using system state variables (col. 3, lines 17 - 21). The system state variables enable identifying contextual (i.e., context-specific) help text

(Abstract, lines 5 - 7; col. 2, lines 7 - 10; col. 3, lines 1 - 5). However, there is no suggestion that this key table contains key pairs. In fact, Richards teaches that "a [single] key" is obtained from the key table (col. 3, lines 19 - 20), responsive to applying the system state variables to the key table (col. 3, lines 20 - 21). Richards illustrates this key table, with its single key, in **Fig. 9**, where the key table uses reference number **90** and its *single* key column uses reference number **91**. Refer also to col. 9, lines 1 - 10, where these elements are discussed. As stated therein, "The Help program ... interrogates the system variables to determine the subject on which help is required. ... A Help Index table **90** is then interrogated ... to extract a [note, singular] key value **91** corresponding to the system variables.". So, for example, the 4 system variables Facility, Application, Panel, and Box (which are identified as system variables in col. 3, lines 35 - 44 and col. 8, lines 62 - 63) appearing as column headings in table **90** are used as an index to obtain a corresponding key from the Key column of table **90**. Richards further teaches that the extracted key **91** is used as a key to Help Text table **92**, for extracting "corresponding Help text **93** [i.e., help text corresponding to the current system variables]" (col. 9, lines 8 - 10) for display in the help window. By the absence of another key in table **90**, this "key table" or "Help Index table" cannot be aligned with Appellant's claimed "key pairs". Similarly, since the Help Text Store **92** uses only this single key **91** as an index, as shown in **Fig. 9** and discussed at col. 9, lines 8 - 10, Help Text Store **92** also cannot be aligned to Appellant's claimed "key pairs".

18. Thus, it can be seen that neither the key table **90** nor the Help Text Store **92** can be aligned to the limitations as Appellant's Claim 1, as there are no "key pairs"; there are insufficient keys (i.e., no "first key" and "second key") from a key pair; and no alignment can be

made to Appellant's claim language as to where keys point (i.e., a first key that points "to one of the name keys" and a second key that points "to one of the string keys") nor to the additional pairs (i.e., "name pairs" and "string pairs") that are required in Appellant's claim language.

19. The Office Action refers to col. 10, lines 36 - 52 of Richards, discussing "branching" that is described therein. However, the "Help Text Branch table" also cannot be aligned to Appellant's claim language, as will now be described. Richards teaches that "Help Text words in the Help Text may be made selectable" (col. 10, lines 37 - 38). So, suppose the system variables have been applied to Help Index Table **90** to obtain a key **91**, and this key **91** has been used to retrieve help text **93** from the Help Text Store/table **92**. Further suppose that the retrieved help text **93** has at least one selectable word, and that "[s]election of such a wor[d] with the pointer" (col. 10, line 39) is performed by the user. And, for purposes of discussion, suppose that key **91** has the value "KeyXYZ" and that the selectable word is "Column" (as in Richards' example). Richards teaches that *selection* of the selectable word causes "the key to the current help text" ("KeyXYZ", in this example) to be applied "with the selected word" to a Help Text Branch table (col. 10, lines 39 - 41), where this Help Text Branch table "contains a Destination Key which is the key to Corresponding Help Text in the Help Text Table" (col. 10, lines 41 - 44). So, if the Help Text Branch table contains a key, "DestKey1", for a combination of "KeyXYZ" and "Column", then this key DestKey1 is the key to where the corresponding help text **93** is found in Help Text Table **92** (presumably, for the example, providing explanatory information about column headings for the current system state). Using a selectable word of "Column" with a different value for the "key to the current help text" may yield a different destination key from

the Help Text Table.

20. However, this cited text also cannot be aligned to Appellant's "key pairs", where a key pair comprises a "first key" that points to a "name key" (and the name key has "an associated name value") and the key pair also comprises a "second key" that points to a "string key" (and the string key has "an associated string value"). The Help Text Branch table of Richards requires two entities as an index, namely a key and a selected word, whereas Appellant's claim language includes nothing that can be correlated to the "selected word".

21. Thus, in summary, the Office Action fails to cite a reference that teaches each and every element of Appellants' independent Claim 1, arranged as required by Appellant's claim language.

22. Appellant's independent Claims 10, 12, and 16 contain similar limitations to those which have been described for independent Claim 1, although with slightly different terminology. As with independent Claim 1, the Office Action fails to cite teachings in Richards for limitations of independent Claims 10, 12, and 16. These claims again use the terminology "key pairs", and as discussed above in paragraphs 16 - 20, the Office Action cites no teaching of this limitation in Richards. Claim 10 also specifies limitations of "a first array" (Claim 10, line 3) and "a second array" (Claim 10, line 4). An electronic search of Richards finds no use of the word "array". Furthermore, Claim 10 specifies that "a data structure" comprises the first and second arrays (Claim 10, lines 3 - 5). Claims 12 and 16 also specify this limitation of "a data structure", and

specify that the data structure comprises "a set of topic pairs ... and ... a set of text pairs" (Claim 12, lines 3 - 6). Appellant respectfully submits that the Office Action fails to cite any teachings of these limitations in Richards.

23. Appellant's independent Claims 10, 12, and 16 also contain limitations pertaining to introspection, as noted above in paragraph 4. In particular, Claim 10 specifies "responsive to selection of a particular topic text string ..., introspecting through the plurality of key pairs ..." (Claim 10, lines 14 - 16). The Office Action cites col. 2, lines 14 - 23; col. 3, lines 17 - 28; col. 9, lines 1 - 10; **Fig. 9**; and **Fig. 10** (Office Action, p. 6, lines 5 - 10) as teaching this limitation of Claim 10. However, there is no discussion in the cited text of introspection. Claim 12 specifies "... retrieving the set of key pairs through introspection" (Claim 12, lines 12 - 13). The Office Action fails to discuss this limitation. Whereas lines 18 - 20 of Claim 12 specify a limitation of "... responsive to selection of a particular one of the displayed topic text strings ..., for locating the text string ... using the retrieved set of key pairs" (emphasis added), the analysis in the Office Action does not discuss this claim language, instead using the language of Appellant's Claim 10 (Office Action, p. 7, line 21 - p. 8, line 1). Claim 16 uses terminology similar to that of Claim 10 for the limitation pertaining to introspection (Claim 16, lines 13 - 14), and the Office Action repeats the citations provided for Claim 10 (Office Action, p. 9, lines 15 - 21). However, as with Claim 10, the cited text for Claim 16 fails to discuss introspection.

24. Accordingly, Appellant respectfully submits that the Office Action fails to make out a *prima facie* case of anticipation as to his independent Claims 10, 12, and 16.

25. Because the Office Action fails to cite a reference that teaches each and every element of Appellant's independent Claims 1, 10, 12, and 16, arranged as required by Appellant's claim language, the §102 rejection fails to meet the requirements of Sections 706.02 and 2131 of the MPEP (which were noted above in paragraph 11). Without more, these claims are deemed patentable. See ***In re Oetiker***, 24 USPQ 2d 1443, 1444 (Fed. Cir. 1992), which stated:

> If the examination at the initial stage does not produce a prima facie case of unpatentability, then without more the applicant is entitled to grant of the patent.

Independent Claims 1, 10, 12, and 16 are therefore deemed patentable over Richards.

7.1.2) Rejection of Dependent Claims 2 - 8, 17 - 21, and 23 - 24

26. Dependent Claims 2 - 8, 17 - 21, and 23 - 24 specify further details pertaining to Appellant's claimed invention. Having failed to make out a *prima facie* case of anticipation with regard to independent Claims 1, 10, 12, and 16, a *prima facie* case of anticipation also has not been made out with regard to dependent Claims 2 - 8, 17 - 21, and 23 - 24. Dependent Claims 2 - 8, 17 - 21, and 23 - 24 are therefore deemed patentable over Richards.

7.2) Second Ground of Rejection

27. Paragraph 22 of the Office Action states that Claims 9, 11, 13, and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), citing Richards and further in view of Java 2 Platform SE v1.3.1: Class ListResourceBundle. These claims are all dependent claims.

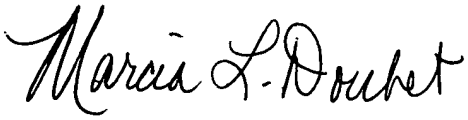
28. Appellant respectfully submits that independent Claims 1, 10, 12, and 16 are patentable

over Richards, as discussed above, and dependent Claims 9, 11, 13, and 22 which depend therefrom are thus considered patentable by virtue of the allowability of the independent claims.

8) CONCLUSION

For the reasons set out above, Appellant respectfully contends that each appealed claim is patentable, and respectfully requests that Examiner's Final Rejection of appealed Claims 1 - 13 and 16 - 24 should be reversed.

Respectfully submitted,



Marcia L. Doubet
Attorney for Appellant
Reg. No. 40,999

Customer Number for Correspondence: 43168
Phone: 407-343-7586
Fax: 407-343-7587

CLAIMS APPENDIX

CLAIMS AS CURRENTLY PRESENTED:

1. A method for displaying data for selection by a user, comprising steps of:

providing a plurality of name pairs, each of the name pairs comprising a name key and an associated name value;

providing a plurality of string pairs, each of the string pairs comprising a string key and an associated string value;

providing a plurality of key pairs, each of the key pairs comprising a first key and a second key, each of the first keys pointing to one of the name keys and each of the second keys pointing to one of the string keys, such that the name value associated with the pointed-to name key is thus associated with the string value associated with the pointed-to string key; and

accessing the string value associated with a selected name value by using a particular one of the key pairs, wherein the first key in the particular one of the key pairs points to the name key with which the selected name value is associated and the second key in the particular one of the key pairs points to the string key with which the string value to be accessed is associated.

2. The method according to Claim 23, wherein the selected name value is displayed as a graphical icon.

3. The method according to Claim 23, wherein the selected name value is displayed as a text string.

4. The method according to Claim 23, wherein the displayed portion is displayed as an ordered list.

5. The method according to Claim 4, wherein the ordered list is an outline.

6. The method according to Claim 4, wherein the ordered list is an ordered tree.

7. The method according to Claim 23, wherein the located string value is a text string.

8. The method according to Claim 1, wherein the plurality of name pairs and the plurality of string pairs are stored as a resource bundle.

9. The method according to Claim 8, wherein the resource bundle is a Java ListResourceBundle.

10. A method for displaying textual help information through a graphical user interface ("GUI") to a user, comprising steps of:

providing a data structure comprising (i) a first array containing topic pairs, each of the topic pairs comprising a topic key and an associated topic text string and (ii) a second array containing text pairs, each of the text pairs comprising a text key and an associated text string;

providing a plurality of key pairs, each of the key pairs comprising a first key and a second key, each of the first keys pointing to one of the topic keys and each of the second keys pointing to one of the text keys, such that the topic text string associated with the pointed-to topic

key is thus associated with the text string associated with the pointed-to text key;

displaying through the GUI a window having a first interactive panel and a second interactive panel;

displaying within the first interactive panel, for selection by the user, at least a portion of the topic text strings;

responsive to selection of a particular topic text string from the displayed portion, introspecting through the plurality of key pairs to locate the text string associated with the selected topic text string; and

displaying the located text string within the second interactive panel.

11. The method according to Claim 10, wherein the data structure is a Java ListResourceBundle.

12. A computer program product for accessing textual data, the computer program product embodied on one or more computer-readable media and comprising:

computer-readable program code means for encapsulating a data structure comprising (i) a set of topic pairs, each of the topic pairs comprising a topic key and an associated topic text string and (ii) a set of text pairs, each of the text pairs comprising a text key and an associated text string;

computer-readable program code means for providing a set of key pairs, each of the key pairs comprising a first key and a second key, each of the first keys pointing to one of the topic keys and each of the second keys pointing to one of the text keys, such that the topic text string associated with the pointed-to topic key is thus associated with the text string associated with the

pointed-to text key;

computer-readable program code means for retrieving the set of key pairs through introspection;

computer-readable program code means for displaying a user interface having a first interactive panel and a second interactive panel;

computer-readable program code means for displaying within the first interactive panel, for selection by a user, at least a portion of the topic text strings;

computer-readable program code means, responsive to selection of a particular one of the displayed topic text strings by the user, for locating the text string associated therewith using the retrieved set of key pairs; and

computer-readable program code means for displaying the located text string within the second interactive panel.

13. The computer program product according to Claim 12, wherein the data structure is a Java ListResourceBundle.

14 - 15 (canceled)

16. A system for displaying data for selection by a user, comprising:

means for providing a data structure comprising (i) a set of topic pairs, each of the topic pairs comprising a topic key and an associated topic text string and (ii) a set of text pairs, each of the text pairs comprising a text key and an associated text string;

means for providing a set of key pairs, each of the key pairs comprising a first key and a second key, each of the first keys pointing to one of the topic keys and each of the second keys pointing to one of the text keys, such that the topic text string associated with the pointed-to topic key is thus associated with the text string associated with the pointed-to text key;

means for displaying a user interface having a first interactive panel and a second interactive panel;

means for displaying within the first interactive panel, for selection by a user, at least a portion of the topic text strings;

responsive to selection of a particular one of the displayed topic text strings by the user, means for introspecting through the set of key pairs to locate the text string associated therewith; and

means for displaying the located text string within the second interactive panel.

17. The system according to Claim 16, wherein the selected particular one is displayed as a graphical icon.

18. The system according to Claim 16, wherein the selected particular one is displayed as a text string.

19. The system according to Claim 16, wherein the displayed portion is displayed as one of (1) an ordered list or (2) an ordered tree.

20. The system according to Claim 19, wherein the ordered list is an outline.

21. The system according to Claim 16, wherein the located text string is a help text string.

22. The system according to Claim 16, wherein the data structure is a Java ListResourceBundle.

23. The method according to Claim 1, wherein the accessing step further comprises the steps of:

displaying a user interface having a first interactive panel and a second interactive panel;

displaying within the first interactive panel, for selection by a user, at least a portion of the name values;

responsive to selection of the selected name value from the displayed portion, introspecting through the plurality of key pairs to locate the string value to be accessed; and

displaying the located string value within the second interactive panel of the user interface.

24. The method according to Claim 1, wherein each of the first keys is identical to its pointed-to name key and each of the second keys is identical to its pointed-to string key.

EVIDENCE APPENDIX

Appellant, the Appellant's legal representative, and the assignee have no personal knowledge of evidence requiring separate identification herein as bearing on this Appeal.

RELATED PROCEEDINGS APPENDIX

No related proceedings are personally known to Appellant, the Appellant's legal representative, or the assignee.